

BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.
Mayor



GARY K. HEU
Managing Director

COUNTY OF KAUAI

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

News Release

For Immediate Release: June 29, 2011

GEORGE COSTA, DIRECTOR
Tel (808) 241-4946
Fax (808) 241-6399

Photovoltaic project at Kaiakea fire station begins
County seeks LEED certification for entire facility

KAIAKEA – County officials announced that another county facility will soon be powered by the sun.

Solar Engineering and Contracting was recently awarded a \$197,500 contract to install a 30kW DC photovoltaic (PV) system at the Kaiakea fire station, making it the third county facility to have a solar-powered system.

IDS Popov Hawai'i was hired as the project design engineer.

"We are very excited about the start of another county PV project," said Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr. "Incorporating renewable energy into as many county facilities as possible is one of our top priorities and is on our list of Holo Holo 2020 projects."

The mayor noted that the county is also seeking a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the Kaiakea fire station.

"Having a LEED certification for Kaiakea will demonstrate that the county is committed to sustainability including lower operating costs and better indoor environmental quality," said Mayor Carvalho.

Unlimited Builders, LLC is the general contractor responsible for managing the LEED certification process.

Preliminary work on the Kaiakea PV project has started and is scheduled to be completed at the end of August.

Based on the National Renewable Energy Lab's (NREL) watt's calculator, the Kaiakea PV system is projected to produce over 40,000 kWh of energy annually.

At the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative's (KIUC) May 2011 schedule G rate of \$0.455, the energy generated by the Kaiakea PV system would result in a yearly savings of \$18,000 to the county and ultimately taxpayers.

Savings in subsequent years will depend on KIUC's electricity rates, how much kWh is produced by the PV system, and related demand savings.

In terms of impact to the environment, the Kaiakea system will significantly reduce greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions. It is estimated that 58,000 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalents will be prevented from polluting the air annually.

Funding for the Kaiakea PV project is provided by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) through an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Because the Kaiakea project is ARRA-funded, the county was able to submit its construction plans for the fire station to NREL officials for their recommendations on additional energy efficiency enhancements. This enabled the county to augment the project with solar light tubes, hot water heater components and insulated exterior walls.

The Kaiakea fire station opened in September of last year. The 6,573-square-foot facility is the newest of the eight fire stations on Kaua'i.

Fifteen firefighters covering three shifts are assigned to Kaiakea.

Incorporating renewable energy into county facilities to the greatest extent possible is one of 38 projects that are part of Mayor Carvalho's Holo Holo 2020 vision for Kaua'i, which calls for all organizations, businesses, residents and visitors on Kaua'i to be part of creating an

island that is sustainable, values the native culture, has a thriving and healthy economy, cares for all – keiki to kupuna – and has a responsible and user-friendly local government.



###